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13 MAR 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : U-2 Generator Brush Failures

1. In regard to the generator brush failure problem which has grounded our U-2's for the last two days and about which I informed you at yesterday morning's staff meeting, Lockheed is now reasonably sure that they have isolated the problem. The problem appears to be that for some reason not yet determined, Union Carbide produced a quantity of brushes that have turned "soft." This same generator is used on a number of military aircraft, and the Air Force has also had a sudden number of failures.

2. The "soft" brushes fortunately can be readily identified. Lockheed is running a series of tests today to insure that they have definitely determined that this is the problem. Mr. Kelly Johnson informs us today that he feels that he will be in a position to recommend release of our aircraft for operations by tomorrow.

Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Research)


cc: DDCI

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